

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA:AR DAY:MAR

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTON

S/S:O:DLMACK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 080367

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION

1. PLEASE INFORM PRINCE FAHD DIRECTLY OR THROUGH WHATEVER CHANNEL YOU CONSIDER APPROPRIATE AND RAPID THAT I VERY MUCH APPRECIATED HIS RESPONSE OF MARCH 30 (JIDDA 2373) TO MY EARLIER MESSAGE. TELL HIM THAT I DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS HE HAS BEEN MAKING TO INFLUENCE THE PARTIES IN LEBANON TO STOP THE BLOODSHED AND CONVEY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON OUR RECENT ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON.

2. AS THE PRINCE IS AWARE, WE HAVE SENT AMBASSADOR BROWN TO LEBANON TO ASSESS THE SITUATION THERE AND TO DO WHAT HE CAN TO HELP BRING ABOUT A POLITICAL SOLUTION CONSISTENT WITH THE EARLIER POLITICAL COMPROMISE WORKED OUT UNDER SYRIAN AUSPICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE JANUARY 22 CEASEFIRE.

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3. AMBASSADOR BROWN'S ARRIVAL IN BEIRUT WAS GREETED WITH WARM AND POSITIVE REACTION FROM ALL SHADES OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, INCLUDING EVEN THE PLO AND JUMBLATT. HE HAS SPOKEN TO A RANGE OF LEBANESE LEADERS, INCLUDING FRANGIE, CHAMOUN, GEMAYEL, AND KARAME, PLUS A NUMBER OF FIGHTING

MEN ON THE CHRISTIAN SIDE. HE WILL SEE JUMBLATT TODAY.

4. THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS ARE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE DANGERS FACING THEM BUT BROWN'S INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT MILITARILY FOR SOME TIME, ASSUMING THEIR SUPPLIES FROM THE OUTSIDE CONTINUE TO ARRIVE.

5. FRANGIE HAS INDICATED TO BROWN IN PRIVATE THAT HE IS PREPARED TO RESIGN FOLLOWING THE AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND AN ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT, PROVIDED THAT THIS OCCURS IN AN ATMOSPHERE FREE OF PRESSURE. THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL ISSUE CAN INDEED BE RESOLVED IN AN ORDERLY WAY WHICH PRESERVES THE CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK.

6. FINALLY, PLEASE INFORM FAHD THAT I VALUE HIS VIEWS AND ADVICE ON THE LEBANESE SITUATION AND APPRECIATE HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE INFLUENCING THE FACTIONS IN LEBANON UPON A COURSE OF MODERATION AND RECONCILIATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WAS GRATIFIED BY EVIDENCE THAT ARAFAT WITHDREW FATAH SUPPORT FOR JUMBLATT'S MILITARY EFFORTS AND THAT THIS STEP MAY HAVE BEEN A MAJOR FACTOR IN JUMBLATT'S DECISION TO ACCEPT A CEASEFIRE. TELL HIS HIGHNESS THAT WE WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO WARN ISRAEL AGAINST INTERVENING IN LEBANON. IN MY VIEW THE BEST INSURANCE AGAINST OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IS THE SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THE POLITICAL ISSUES WITHOUT FURTHER RESORT TO FORCE BY ANY FACTION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, INTERVENTION, CAT-C, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT TS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE080367
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARDAY:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: 1
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604100/aaaadifq.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, SA, LE, SY, US, (BROWN, L DEAN), (FAHD, PRINCE)
To: JIDDA BEIRUT DAMASCUS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006